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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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"Present ECE [Economic Commission for Europe] Conference is used by both sides as sounding board for coming East-West talks. While Soviet Bloc spokesmen want elimination of discrimination, Westerners claim firstly, must have much better information on Eastern availabilities requirements, which means trade representation USSR and Satellites; secondly, before undertaking big plant expansion or layout changes, must have proper reliable basis of long-term contracts enabling both sides to plan ahead and follow through; thirdly, progressive development of trade relations must lead to balance in trade. Both sides so patently anxious for increased trade that political sharpshooting is almost totally absent."

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